
Transitions at DSHS



New DSHS commissioner named

The Department of State Health Services welcomed a new commissioner on January 2. David Lakey, MD, replaces Eduardo Sanchez, MD, who resigned in October to become director of the Institute for Health Policy in The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston. Dr. Lakey earned his medical degree in 1990 from the Indiana University School of Medicine. He went on to complete four years of internship and residency in internal and pediatric medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. He moved to Tyler, Texas, in 1998 to take a position as a professor of medicine at UT Health Center at Tyler. In 2001, he became chief of the Division of Infectious Disease and medical director for the Center for Pulmonary and Infectious Disease Control. In 2004, he went to Houston as associate director for biosecurity and infectious disease at UT's Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness. That same

year, he joined the Texas Medical Rangers as a lieutenant colonel. In 2006, he became the local health authority for the city of Tyler and Smith County. DSHS has more than 11,500 employees and an annual budget of about \$2.3 billion.



Renee Clack named director of section

Renee Clack was named director of DSHS' Health Care Quality Section in December. She replaces Kathy Perkins, who took the job of assistant commissioner for the Regulatory Services Division. Clack came to DSHS in September of 2004 to manage the Regulatory Licensing Group, which includes EMS certification and licensure. She started her career with the Texas Department of Human Services in 1989 and rose to director of long-term care regulation. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas State University. Clack attended her first Texas EMS Conference last fall and wants to learn more about EMS and trauma systems.

"In the two years I've worked with EMS certification, I have been so impressed with the people in EMS and their commitment to patient care," she said. "I am looking forward to learning more about EMS and trauma systems, and to meet those of you who work on the front line of emergency health care. Those in emergency health care make sure Texans get the best care possible, whether on scene or in a trauma center."

Lockwood joins OEMS/TS

Familiar faces return ... Phil Lockwood, a longtime manager of EMS Standards who retired in 2005, is joining the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination in March as a program specialist. Lockwood began his career at the Texas Department of Health (now DSHS) in 1976 and came to the EMS Registry (as it was then called) in 1978. Over the next 25 years, he worked in EMS regulation, providing technical assistance, teaching EMS classes and inspecting ambulances. His last nine years in EMS were spent as manager of EMS Standards, which oversaw the certification and licensure of Texas EMS personnel, among other programs. After he retired, Lockwood came back to work at DSHS as a manager in the Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Group. In his new position in the OEMS/TS Stakeholder Information Group, Lockwood will be working to develop rules and policy and to coordinate conference education.